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NEW PATENT CLAIMS

1. Method for improving the long term stability of biodiesel, wherein

1.1 crude methyl ester is formed by transesterification of a vegetable or animal fat or oil with methanol,

1.2 the crude methyl ester thus formed is intensively post-treated at temperatures between 25 and 60 °C, with a strong acid or with a mixture of a strong acid and a complex former

characterized in that

1.3 a fine emulsion is prepared from the ester and the acid phase,

1.4 the ester layer separated from the emulsion formed thereby is subjected to a thorough water wash and subsequently dried.

2. The method according to Claim 1, characterized in that, as strong acid hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid or phosphoric acid are employed and as complex former EDTA or citric acid.

3. The method according to Claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the water wash of biodiesel is carried out in a wash column according to the counter current principle or by means of a mechanically intensive mixer.